



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**

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Topic: Fiscal Year 2007 Former Nansemond Ordnance Depot Update

Background/Status: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers continues to make significant progress in its ordnance and environmental investigation efforts at the Former Nansemond Ordnance Depot (FNOD) site in Suffolk, Va. The former depot is a Formerly Used Defense Site (FUDS) and is listed on the EPA's National Priorities List.

Key Points:

- There are a total of six EPA-designated Source Areas and 23 other Areas of Concern (AOC) scattered throughout the 975-acre project site. Investigation and evaluation continues at four of the six EPA Source Areas. Five of the 23 AOCs have been fully evaluated and eliminated as potential hazardous sites. Fifteen of the remaining 18 AOCs are currently undergoing various levels of investigation (some nearing completion), and start-up investigations at the remaining three AOCs are expected in FY 07, which began Oct. 1.
- The Corps' munitions response efforts began at the former depot in 2000, and are expected to continue through 2009.
- In 2006, the Corps removed 87 military munitions items, 27 pounds of bulk explosives, 16,772.5 pounds of munitions debris, and 65,823 pounds of scrap.
- Since the last RAB meeting in October, the Corps has removed 24 discarded munitions items, no bulk explosives, 5,116 pounds of munitions debris (inert material), 11,956 pounds of non-munitions-related scrap, and no contaminated soil.
- To date the Corps has removed 2,671 discarded munitions items, 8,901 pounds of bulk explosives, 189,755 pounds of munitions debris (inert material), over 1.43 million pounds of non-munitions-related scrap, and over 7.26 million pounds of contaminated soil.

General Information:

- **Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) Briefing** – The Corps will brief the RAB at the December 7 RAB meeting on: 2006 progress and challenges; the preliminary results at the former Track G Explosive Magazine Line (AOC 10); Track H & I Magazine Line (AOC 11); and the Arsenic Investigation area (AOC 22); the status of the Track K Dump Record of Decision; the Pesticide Drum Area; munitions response efforts in the Main Burning Ground Area; and upcoming projects for 2007. The FNOD site is located in the vicinity of the Tidewater Community College Portsmouth Campus (TCC).
- **Pesticide Drum Area** – This site is located on a parcel of land that was acquired by the City of Suffolk in July 2006. This parcel is known as the Triangle Area and is located in the south central portion of the former depot between I-664 and College Drive near the entrance of the TCC. It was previously owned by the Virginia Community College System (TCC property). The Pesticide Drum Area is packaged as part of Source Area 6 but is not considered part of EPA's National Priority Listing of FNOD. The Corps has completed the Remedial Investigation Report for the Pesticide Drum Area, which recommends no further action for this site. The Corps awaits comments from Virginia's Department of Environmental Quality (VDEQ). If VDEQ concurs, the Corps will prepare a Proposed Plan, post a public notice in the newspaper, and host a public meeting in early 2007 to discuss the information collected and evaluated for the site and the proposal for no further action.

- **The TNT Area** – The Corps’ groundwater sampling effort continues at the TNT area to determine an appropriate remedial alternative for the site. Fortunately, the TNT concentrations in the groundwater have been declining significantly over time through natural degradation. The Corps is evaluating two potential remedial alternatives for this site: monitored natural attenuation and chemical oxidation through augmentation of nutrients to accelerate natural degradation processes. The Corps expects to complete the feasibility study and reach a conclusion as to the best approach for addressing the site in 2008. There are no current users of groundwater in this area. All potable water is supplied to Tidewater Community College and surrounding areas by municipal sources.
- **Main Burning Ground** – The Corps continues its munitions response investigation at the Main Burning Ground site located on GE property. There are 10 100-foot by 100-foot investigation grids left to investigate. Depending on the depths of the remaining grids, the Corps estimates that it can complete munitions response efforts at this site in 2007.
- **Nansemond River Beachfront** – The Corps completed its initial munitions response efforts at the Nansemond River Beach in July 2006. This effort included excavation of three disposal pits and three 100-feet by 5-foot trenches. The goal was to remove munitions from the previously identified pits and to gather information from the trenches for the subsequent munitions response effort that will be conducted there next year. Most of the material found in the trenches and behind the retaining wall was the same type of discarded military munitions that have been found at the site before: boosters, adapter boosters, primers, fuses, etc. However, the munitions response team also found some bulk explosives and small TNT bags similar to the material found at the TNT area, and some British and French World War I fuses that had not been found at the site before. In addition, the munitions crew also discovered five Civil War-era iron spheres called grape shot at this location. Due to the discovery of bulk explosives here, the Corps will need to complete a Remedial Investigation for the site to delineate the nature and extent of FNOD-related contaminants in the soil and groundwater.

For More Information: Contact FNOD Program Manager, Adriane James, at 757-201-7701.